

SESSION 16

Next Generation Leadership (Part 1): Transatlantic Perspectives Towards 2030 and Beyond

Sarah Lenti, Director, Transatlantic Policy Network

- Dating back to 2016, there were staff and Congresspeople who understood the importance of the Transatlantic relationship and championed it. Sadly, this has lessened in recent years. We have had wake-up calls, not least the invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022.
- The current Administration is extremely pro-Europe, again setting a different tone for Congress. There is a particular responsibility for political leaders to speak out now as potential administration change could lead to different conclusions.
- For some European nations, there is recognition of the current goodwill between the two, but there is a fear amongst others that the US will become less present in Europe after the war in Ukraine ends.
- Now is the time to forge and foster the EU-US relationship - this should apply to business, government, academia, experts, and staff supporting all of the aforementioned. There is indeed a huge potential for transatlantic cooperation, but we are not using the potential, not taking advantage.
- Facing global transformation, the building of more bridges must begin now. We do indeed need a new Compass.
- The next generation of transatlantic leaders believes that upcoming changes to the digital, environmental, and energy changes will present challenges that the next generation of EU-US leaders will be best served to tackle together. We must be open to ideas, including a new trading framework.
- Legislative issues worked on in 2030 will be different than today. The longer we continue to react to issues - in a reactionary way and not proactively – will inhibit us.
- Democracy will always be the #1 value system that unites Europe and the US; the next generation must always promote that.
- The next generation needs more fora to exchange opinions and debate, composed of both leaders and staff; we need these fora to exist in person in both the US and Europe.

SESSION 17

Next Generation Leadership (Part 2): Launch of the TPN Staffers Network

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- The stage was set by asking for a discussion on the following two topics:

The launching of a Staffers Network

- All viewed such a network as being an essential program to build – one that panelists are eager to participate in and populate. Companies would also be eager to help with hosting.
- Staff exchanges are valuable — it's extremely helpful to hold meetings for staff in both Washington and Brussels. EPLO already plays a role with programs, as does the US State Department.
- Such a network should function like a think tank, where ideas are transferred and mutual learning is prioritized. A digital presence would be welcome to underpin learning and information-sharing aims.
- It should focus on continuity and cooperation independent of any current membership of the network - this will build credibility and mutual trust, which is essential to the effectiveness of the network. Recall that staff typically moves on after two years - the network should remain a constant.
- EP staffers are different from US staffers, the former being used to coming together and sharing. US staffers would benefit from learning different perspectives and countries.

Priorities for such a network

- It should work on the basis that policy is cross-cutting and multi-disciplinary — we should be able to talk about tech, privacy, and innovation all at once. Existing topics live and are important in transatlantic discourse – climate, security, and digital transformation are good future-facing topics already with us and shaping the world of the next generation. So no need to focus exclusively on so-called other next-generation issues like diversity.
- It should be informal, with staffers communicating with each other. The quality of the interaction between staffers is more important than the quantity of meetings (though there should be a regular cadence). Finding an Informal venue to talk is of importance.
- Staffers care about understanding each other's mutual legislation to avoid being caught off guard by policy, e.g., the lack of warning about IRA. TPN could serve as a sounding board.